

**A PUBLIC HUB EMPLOYING A TRUSTED AGENT  
TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF COMMODITIES**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 A public hub and trusted agent cooperate to facilitate  
the exchange of commodities. The trusted agent is  
responsible for controlling various aspects of the exchange.  
For instance, the trusted agent administers selected  
critical aspects of the process, while not getting involved  
in other non-critical activities. The trusted agent shields  
10 other participants involved with the exchange from selected  
information, thus protecting sensitive information, business  
processes and relationships from those participants.